

REMARKS

In response to the Requirement, Applicant elects species #1, which the Office action indicates is shown in figures 1, 2A, 2B, 2C and 2D. The election of species #1 is made with traverse.

The Office action describes species #1 as a "tread embodiment having overlapping first type fine slits 2a forming first type webs 3a." Claims 1-3, 10-24 and 31 read on species #1 as shown in figures 1, 2A, 2B, 2C and 2D.

As indicated in the Office action, claims 1, 23 and 31 are generic.

Claims 15-22 are also generic with respect to each of species #1 to #10. The features recited in claims 15-22 do not limit these claims from reading on fewer than all of the identified species. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests recognition of claims 1, 15-23 and 31 as generic claims.

Furthermore, Applicant submits that claim 11 is generic with respect to species #1 to #9.

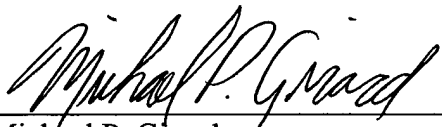
Applicant has amended claims 2, 10, 17 and 20. Claims 2, 10 and 20 are amended to correct minor typographical errors. Claim 17 is amended to change its dependency from claim 2 to claim 1 and to specify that "rows of slits" are claimed.

Prompt and favorable consideration on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

KLARQUIST SPARKMAN, LLP

By


Michael P. Girard
Registration No. 38,467

One World Trade Center, Suite 1600
121 S.W. Salmon Street
Portland, Oregon 97204
Telephone: (503) 226-7391
Facsimile: (503) 228-9446